

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A tie plate, comprising:  
a base plate having an first-upper surface and a bottom surface and defining a peripheral edge;  
a pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members defined on said base plate, said pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members define a recessed area on said first surface of said base plate for accommodating a railroad rail therebetween;  
a layer of electrically-insulating material covering at least a portion of said base plate; and  
a plurality of slots defined on said base plate, wherein at least one slot extends transversely through each of said longitudinally-extending shoulder members from said upper surface to said bottom surface of said base plate, and wherein said slots are adapted to receive fasteners for securing a railroad rail.
2. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members extend a width of said base plate.
3. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer encapsulates said base plate.
4. (Currently Amended) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer covers said first-upper surface of said base plate.
5. (Currently Amended) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer covers said recessed area and said pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members on said first-upper surface of said base plate.

6. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base plate is a metallic core.

7. (Withdrawn) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members are made of an electrically-insulating material.

8. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electrically-insulating material comprises a polymeric material.

9. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electrically-insulating material comprises a polymeric material containing reinforcing fibers.

10. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said slots each define an inner surface, said inner surface covered by an inner layer made of an electrically-insulating material.

11. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inner layer is molded onto said inner surface of said slots on said base plate.

12. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inner layer is insertable into said slots on said base plate.

13. (Original) The tie plate as claimed in claim 10, wherein said layer and said inner layer are made of the same electrically-insulating material.

Claims 14-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An electrically-insulated tie plate, comprising:  
a metallic core having an first upper surface and a bottom surface and defining a peripheral edge;  
a plurality of slots having an inner surface defined in said metallic core;

a pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members defined on said metallic core, said pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members define a recessed area on said first surface of said metallic core for accommodating a railroad rail therebetween; and

a layer of electrically-insulating material covering said ~~first~~upper surface of said metallic core and said inner surface of said slots, wherein at least one slot extends transversely through each of said longitudinally-extending shoulder members from said upper surface to said bottom surface of said base plate.

24. (Withdrawn) The tie plate as claimed in claim 23, wherein said pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members are made of an electrically-insulating material.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled)